

Understanding the Wrath and Forgiveness of God
(The Foundation of assurance through the blood of Christ)
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Introduction: How can I have a relationship with God?

A. Why is the gospel “*good news!*” (**Rom 1:1, 9, 15-16**)

Gospel - εὐαγγέλιον, ου, τό good news; in the NT only of God's message of salvation gospel, good news;

1. How is the gospel good news? We must turn to the nature of God to understand.
2. One of the great tragedies is that men never see their need of the gospel.

B. The core of the gospel is the forgiveness of sins that brings us back to God.

1. Why is sin and its removal so important? (**Rom 3:23; 6:23**)
2. You cannot understand God's love and grace without understanding His wrath!

I. Why does God want us to know of His wrath?

A. The first step in preaching the gospel is teaching the wrath of God! (**Rom 1:18**)

A. T. Robertson: - “God's anger (thumos) is his vehement fury or boiling rage. His wrath (orge) is his settled indignation or his settled anger. In other words, in God's anger the emphasis falls on the emotional, boiling intensity of it. And in God's wrath the emphasis falls on the controlled, settled, considered direction and focus of its application. But we dare not draw a hard line between them. God's anger is never out of the control of his wisdom and righteousness, and his wrath is never cool or indifferent, but is always a wisely directed fury. The wrath of God is never less than a perfect judicial decree, but is always more than a perfect judicial decree because it is always full of right and fitting fury.”

B. God's anger is consistent and absolutely righteous. (**Rom 2:5-6**)

1. It is always connected to the righteous judgment of God.
2. It is cumulative; God will not let even an idle word pass His wrath. (**Mt 12:36**)

C. Many wish to deny the wrath of God.

1. One denomination eliminated the hymn “In Christ Alone” because of this line:
“Till on that cross as Jesus died/the wrath of God was satisfied.”
2. The problem with many is that they see God in light of man's weaknesses or try to create a God from their own imagination. (**1 Sam 15:29; Isa 55:8-9**)

D. We see God as He has revealed Himself. If we deny or fail to understand one aspect of His Character then it affects everything we know about God or what we believe!

1. The wrath of God is always connected with His holiness. (**Isa 6:4-6**)
2. The wrath of God is always directed at sin. (**Eph 5:5-7**)

II. Having a restored relationship with God is good news indeed

A. What is life like without God? (**Eph 2:12-13**)

1. What is life like without a purpose? What kind of real comfort is in this world?
2. It is truly sad to see so many to face death unprepared. (**Heb 2:14-15**)
3. A place to start teaching is to show how God has a plan to bring us out of the prison of sin and to exalt us to heavenly places. Hurt people are ready to listen
4. The Messiah would bring that very message. (**Isa 42:6-7**)

B. What does it mean to be saved?

Salvation - σωτηρία - deliverance; (I) physically, as rescue from danger deliverance, preservation, safety

1. Jesus pointed out the only alternative to salvation. (**Jn 3:36; Jn 8:24**)

2. The nature of God demands that sin be punished. (Ex 34:6-7)
 - a. Our God will not clear the guilty.
 - b. Repentance is always a condition of forgiveness!
- C. When we find forgiveness then we are *no longer "children of wrath."* (Eph 2:3)
 1. There is a "wrath to come" that we do not want to see. (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9-10)
 2. There are some that scoff.
- D. What does forgiveness mean to God?
 1. He blots out our sins! (Acts 3:19; Isa 43:25)
 2. God does not remember our sins any more. (Heb 8:12. Micah 7:18-19)
 3. God receives us back to a full fellowship. There is no grudge holding! (Lk 15:20-24)
- E. God wants each of us to have absolute confidence in His promises.
(1 Jn 2:1-2; Eph 2:1, 5-8)
 1. How can I find the assurance that leads to a joyful and active service to God?
 2. How can I learn to live a life free from the crippling burdens of guilt and doubt?

III. How God's wrath and forgiveness changes us

- A. We should want all men to be saved (forgiven). (2 Pt 3:9)
 1. When we remember what God did for us we must put on this kind of heart towards others. (Rom 1:14; 2 Cor 5:17-21)
 2. We must never forget this and lose our motivation! (2 Pt 1:8-9)
- B. We will be able to be comforted by the wrath of God!
 1. There are burdens that we were never meant to handle. One of these is personal vengeance! (Rom 12:19-20)
 2. Is it righteous to want evildoers punished? God wants us to trust Him and His ways. (Rom 13:2-5)
- C. We do not take sin lightly. We major in discernment!
 1. We must overcome deception by careful reasoning. (Heb 5:13-14)
 2. Look at some of the sins that bring the wrath of God. (Col 3:5-7)
 3. Open hearts and genuine repentance is given great emphasis!
- D. We seek to have a daily awareness of what God has done for us.
 1. Consider the parable Jesus used to open the heart of a Pharisee. (Lk 7:40-43)
 2. Let you and I answer the question. Who loves more? The one forgiven more!
 3. How much have you been forgiven? (Lk 7:47)
- E. We seek to forgive all that repent. (Mt 6:12, 14; Col 3:12-15)
 1. Why would one decide to have nothing to do with another? (1 Jn 3:14-16)
 2. "I will forgive you but I do not have to like you." (1 Jn 3:18-19; 1 Pt 1:22; 2:1)
 3. There is a wonderful burden lifted when you are no longer thinking this way.
- F. How do I know if I have forgiven another? Here is a test.
 1. Do we get pleasure in their hurt? 2. Do we intentionally avoid being in their presence?
 3. Do we vividly remember what we have suffered? 4. Are we uncomfortable when they are praised? 5. Do we go out of the way to be helpful to that person?
 6. Are we willing to pray for the person?

Conclusion: Do we have a clear view of what God has done for each of us?